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AT THE SUMMER DANCE HALL

A MONOLOGUE

By

LAURA WILLIAMS

CHICAGO
The Dramatic Publishing Company

Hageman's Make-Up Book

By MAURICE HAGEMAN

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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MONOLOGUE FOR A WOMAN

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LAURA WILLIAMS

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AT THE SUMMER DANCE HALL

Scene—A summer dance hall.

Characters—Lucy—Susie—Sally—Mamie.

LUCY SPEAKS.—Isn't this hall crowded? I hate a crowd. I wish somebody would ask me to dance. [*Looks about.*] I may be fat, but I'm light. [*Sways to music. Calls.*] Mr. Jones. Oh-hoo—Mr. Jones. [*Beckons frantically.*] Oh, Mr. Jones, I'm so glad to see you. Thank you. I'd love to. I was hoping you'd ask me. [*Dancing, making hard work of it and talking jerkily.*] Isn't this floor lovely? Such a crowd. I'm crazy about dancing. Do you see Mrs. Brown? Queer woman. Bleaches. Mr. Smith is here dancing with little Molly White. Isn't that just like him? What a frump that woman is. Looks as though she'd lose—oh, is it over? We didn't start right off, did we? Let's encore. Aren't they stingy? [*Sinks into chair.*] I—get—so—breathless.

SUSIE SPEAKS.—[*Entering with a long stride laughing.*] What a jam? Are we going on? [*Points.*] Look, aren't they funny? See that old maid and that little fat woman. Oh— [*Laughs boisterously.*] Do they call that dancing? I could do better with both feet tied. That's a jelly tune. Lots of go in it. Let's try it for a lark. [*Dances, twirling madly about.*] I'm sorry. [*Nods to couple. Dances off, knocking couple down. Stops.*] I beg your pardon. [*Helps them up.*] Are you hurt? Awfully slippery floor. Accidents will happen. Is this your hair-pin? [*Picks up pin.*] It's broken. That's too bad. The music was so fast we had to go some to keep up with it. [*Laughs.*] You're lame. That's a shame. You'll be all right if you rub your knee with—what you may call it. You know, that lini-

ment they advertise so much. I'm afraid we're blocking the floor and [*laughing*] missing the dance. You'd better go home. [*Dances as before. Stops fanning herself with handkerchief.*] Whew! It's hot in here. Come out. I'm going for a swim. [*Exits.*]

SALLY SPEAKS.—Oh Bobbie, isn't that a lovely hall? Can't we have just one turn? I'm sure Mama wouldn't mind with you, Bobbie. If it's a waltz? Oh—it is. It is a waltz. [*Excitedly.*] Where do you buy your tickets? Here Bobbie. Here's the entrance. You promised. Five cents a dance. Isn't that funny? But I couldn't go in alone. Now, Bobbie, p—lease. You promised. [*Drags him in.*] Let's do that new step. You do too, know it. You did it all right at the school dance. Why Mama wouldn't mind a bit. I'm sure of it. Oh—p—lease start, Bobbie. [*Dances fancy waltz step.*] You're doing beautifully, Bobbie. Don't you love it? [*Dances humming—stops.*] Couldn't we have one more? Please. Just one more? We won't miss the boat. You know we've time. You just say that. Mama wouldn't mind. Oh—Bobbie. [*Exits tearfully.*]

MAMIE SPEAKS.—Say, these dance hall mobs give me the dizzies. Never have no room ter do nothin' fancy. Come on and try. Aw they can't say nothin' ter yer. Ladies free. [*Dances wildly. To manager.*] Stop! Me stop! What fer? Let me tell yer, kiddo, that there ain't a duo in this joint that has anything on us fer steps. I could dance when I was six months old. Yer don't know what yer talkin'. We ain't done nothin' but regular steps. Honest, I don't see what we done. I can't help it if I'm a little more speedy. That's the way I allus dances. Yer can't put us out. Yer can't I tell yer. [*Backing to exit.*] Yer a coward. Just because yer got white flannel pants on yer think yer own the place. T'aint nothin' but a nickel dance hall anyway. Yes, I'm goin' and I ain't never comin' back. You'll ruin the place puttin' respectable ladies out like this. I'm goin' ter tell everyone about yer. There's other dance halls.

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